

FOR THOSE OF YOU LOOKING TO TURN YOUR CONCERNS INTO ACTION

Advice from a high-level Senate staffer:

PHONE CALLS TO CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES ARE HAVING AN IMPACT

You can reach your members of Congress both at their Washington, DC offices and their local offices here in Ohio. Here are the phone numbers for you to use:

Sen Bernie Moreno:	Sen Jon Husted:	Rep Dave Joyce:
Washington DC: 202-224-2315 Cleveland: 216-522-7272	Washington DC: 202-224-3353 No Local Office Number Yet	Washington DC: 202-225-5731 Mentor, OH: 440-352-3939

Calls are what congresspeople pay attention to. Every single day, the Senior Staff and the Senator get a report of the 3 most-called-about topics for that day at each of their offices (DC and local), and exactly how many people said what about each topic. They are sorted by zip code and area code.

Republican callers generally outnumber Democrat callers 4-1, and when it's a particular issue that single-issue-voters pay attention to (like gun control, or planned parenthood funding, etc...), it's often closer to 11-1, and that's recently pushed Republican congressmen on the fence to vote with the Republicans. In the last 8 years, Republicans have called, and Democrats haven't.

When you call:

A) Ask for the Staff member in charge of whatever you're calling about ("Hi, I'd like to speak with the staffer in charge of Healthcare, please"). If you don't reach that person, ask for their name, and then just keep talking to whoever answered the phone. Don't leave a message (unless the office doesn't pick up at all). It's better to talk to the staffer who answered than leave a message for the specific staffer in charge of your topic.

B) Give them your zip code. They won't always ask for it, but make sure you give it to them to record. Extra points if you live in a zip code that traditionally votes for them, since they'll want to make sure they get/keep your vote.

C) If you can, make it personal. "I voted for you in the last election and I'm worried/happy/whatever" or "I'm a teacher, and I am appalled by ——," or "as a single mother" or "as a white, middle class woman," or whatever.

D) Pick 1-2 specific things per day to focus on. Don't rattle off everything you're concerned about — they're figuring out what 1-2 topics to mark you down for on their lists. So, focus on 1-2 per day, every day. It's important that they just keep getting calls.

E) Be clear on what you want — "I'm disappointed that the Senator..." or "I want to thank the Senator for their vote on..." or "I want the Senator to know that voting in ___ is the wrong decision for our state because..." Don't leave any ambiguity.

F) They may get to know your voice — it doesn't matter. The people answering the phones generally turn over every 6 weeks, so even if they're really sick of you, they'll be gone in 6 weeks.

G) Put the numbers in your phone (all under P – Politician) An example is Dave Joyce: Politician Dave Joyce DC, Politician Dave Joyce OH, etc., which makes it easy to click down the list each day.

If you hate being on the phone & feel awkward (which is many people), there are scripts online (Indivisible). After a few days of calling, it starts to feel a lot more natural. The most important thing is to register a call.

WHAT WE SHOULD NOT BE SPENDING TIME ON:

You should NOT be bothering with online petitions or emailing. Any sort of online contact gets immediately ignored, and letters get thrown in the trash.